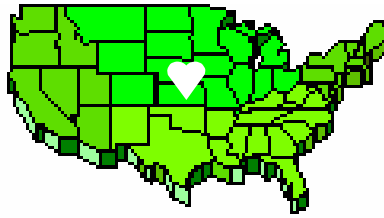




FARM SERVICE FOCUS

FARM
SERVICE
AGENCY



Ottawa County FSA Office
877 Laurel
Minneapolis, KS 67467

COUNTY COMMITTEE:
Tim Myers, CHAIRPERSON
Ken Berry, VICE-CHAIRPERSON
Vera Freeman, MEMBER

REGULAR MEETING DATE FIRST
WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH, 9:00
A.M.

FROM THE HEART OF THE USA

OFFICE HOURS 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
TELE: 785-392-3393 FAX 785-392-3342

David Pounds
County Executive Director

June 19, 2006

2006 ACREAGE REPORTING

The final date to certify **corn, sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers, fallow, and other feed crops is August 1.** NAP coverage producers need to be aware that feed crops are required to have the acreage reported 15 days prior to the crop being harvested (alfalfa-May). All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-cyclical program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Failed crop acreage comprises tracts of properly planted and managed crops that did not grow or were destroyed due to natural disaster. Acreage reports for failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop to remain eligible for crop acreage history.

Once you are done planting your spring crops call and get your appointment: 785-392-3393.

2006 CCC COMMODITY LOAN RATES

The 2006 Crop Loan rates for Ottawa County are:

Wheat	\$2.80	Barley	\$1.75	Oats	\$1.34
Soybeans	\$4.84	Corn	\$1.99	Sorghum	\$3.20 cwt.
Sunflowers	\$9.06				

The final date to request a loan or LDP is March 31, 2007 for wheat, oats or barley and May 31, 2007 for sorghum, corn, soybeans or sunflowers.

Warehouse stored loans need to have storage paid for 9 months prior to issuing the loan. Any liens will need lien waivers prior to issuing payments. Producers might want to have the quantity in multiple receipts as then you can redeem them individually instead of a large quantity. (Example: 10000 bushel have in 4-2500 bushel receipts.)

Farm stored loans must meet the moisture requirements and bins must have permanent ladders outside and inside. Grain must be in a measurable position and easily inspected. Once grain is placed under loan, it can not be moved for any reason without prior authorization. There are severe penalties for moving grain without authorization.

REPORT CHANGES AS THEY OCCUR

All changes of address, operator, ownership, and direct deposit should be reported as soon as they are known throughout the year. This is especially important as payments can be misdirected and most of the time can not be redistributed.

2006 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP) CONTRACTS

The last day to revise 2006 DCP contracts is September 30. The last day to file a late filed DCP contract is also September 30. A late filing fee of \$100 must be paid before a late filed contract can be approved.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM CRP ISSUES

CRP Landlord Tenant Provisions – A tenant on a CRP Contract receiving payments under landlord/tenant provisions does have a right to the tenant share for the length of the CRP Contract. The exception would be if the tenant voluntarily relinquishes his right to the contract, dies, files bankruptcy, or is legally not fulfilling his tenant responsibility as an operator. The landlord/tenant provision remains in place through land sale, etc.

Expiring CRP Contracts - Beginning July 1 of the final year of a CRP Contract, certain cover may be destroyed to prepare a seedbed for fall seeded crops. Contact the FSA office for further policy and approval.

CRP Wildlife Food Plots – are to be maintained and properly managed as a food plot. Management practices need to provide for a reasonable chance of crop survival and grain establishment.

Annual Spot Checks of CRP – CRP acreage may not be hayed, grazed, harvested or cosmetically mowed. Noxious weeds, unwarranted weeds, and TREES must be controlled. CRP is not to be used for storage of machinery, bales, or other purposes. CRP may not have trails, paths or killing lanes. Lanes or strips used as hunting lanes are a contract violation: unless approved under a controlled shooting area.

A CRP contract under maintenance violation may include penalties of, refund of annual payment, cost share payment, interest would apply and liquidated damages could apply.

The CRP Continuous Signup Remains in Place – a producer may signup for filter strip, windbreak or eligible practice at any time.

REX DEADLINE IS JUNE 30

Producers need to pay their compliance fee and sign the FSA-409 if they wish to extend their CRP offers before close of business on June 30, 2006. You have been notified by letter of the length of your extension and reminded by a second letter. This is your third and final reminder. This is for the contracts expiring in 08-10.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION

Nominations for county committee person in the LAA 1 are being accepted. This area includes the following townships: Stanton, Fountain, Henry, Center, Concord, Morton and Culver. Currently the position is held by Tim Myers who is eligible to run for the position again. Anyone interested in nominating or being nominated can call or stop in our office to pickup a nomination form. These forms were mailed out a while back in a state wide newsletter. The final date for nominations is August 1, 2006. Forms can be obtained from the following internet locations:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections> or
<http://intranet.fsa.usda.gov> these are also available in Spanish.

TREES ON CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM ACREAGE

Trees are not an allowable cover on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage. Scattered Cedars, Locusts and other trees must be removed. To be considered cropland for future program purposes the acreage must be legally and physically capable of being farmed. Musk thistles, bindweed and sericea lespedeza are noxious weeds that are not allowed on CRP acreage. Producers with alfalfa enhanced CRP stands or producers with practice CP-25, with many required forbs in the cover, may need to spot spray for noxious weeds in the fall. Pure stands of grass may be sprayed in total in the fall. CRP contracts that are determined to be infested with either trees or noxious weeds can be penalized and or terminated by FSA procedure.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR PROBLEM AREAS AND FIELDS WITHOUT EXCEPTION.

YOUTH LOANS

FSA makes loans to individual rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations. Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. To qualify for a loan, an applicant must: be a citizen of the United States; be between 10 and 20 years old; live in a town of less than 10,000 people; be unable to obtain a loan from other sources; and conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work. Applicants must also be capable of planning, managing, and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project adviser. The project adviser must recommend the project and the loan, and agree to provide adequate supervision.

E-FILE FOR BUSINESS

The Farm Service Agency is encouraging producers who have a computer and the internet at home to acquire their level two authority to do more of their business with FSA online. We encourage you to try and use the E-file process. Items that are available at this time online are the annual DCP contract and LDP’s. Advancements have been made to make this process a painless method of signing into the farm programs. It also entitles you to timely access your farm program benefits. With programs such as the LDP’s where numerous applications are filed in the County Office (COF) on a daily basis, producers who use E-File can by-pass the COF and file their application and be paid sooner than those taken in the COF.

Producers must complete an 18 question customer profile on the internet at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> and click on “create an account page”. Complete this profile, which includes setting a user ID and password and submit online. A confirmation email is received and must be responded to within 7 days. Then take your state or federal ID to an FSA Office to have your identity proofed. After FSA updates your account you will have access to USDA on-line applications and forms within one hour.

Additional online services are available at: <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov/> or for FSA information <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd/>

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

FSA offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. Contact your FSA Office for more information.

FIELD EMPLOYEE WANTED

The Ottawa County Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting applications for a part time field employee. This position is subject to call (when work is needed). The job entails grain bin inspections and measurements, measure fields with either a tape, wheel or with the GPS unit and field inspections. Person must have their own transportation. If interested contact the FSA office for an application.